

- (1) The tharavila and assessment on puduval lands should be reduced.
- (2) When the tharavila and other dues exceeded Rs. 100 but was below Rs. 500, the ryots should be permitted to pay up the same in three annual instalments; when the amount was between Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000, in five instalments; and when above Rs. 1,000, in ten instalments.

The Member next said that, during the recent settlement, certain private pathways and canals through private holdings, intended solely for the convenience of the parties concerned, were included under the head of poramboke and portions of the banks of those canals were also included in the same. Those areas were not acquired by the Government on payment of compensation to the owners. The fact of their being included under the head of poramboke was unknown to many of the owners of lands. They were now ordered to vacate the so-called encroachments. He therefore prayed that the lands should at least be ordered to be acquired on payment of compensation to the owners and the pernicious practice of planting demarcation stones through the agency of the proverti officers discontinued or at least suspended till the financial stress caused by the war was over.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

14. Poramboke in the town of Kottayam.

Mr. Ittycheria Abraham (Member, Trading Classes, Kottayam) said that the inhabitants of the town were recently undergoing very great hardships on account of the unsympathetic steps taken by the officers in removing encroachments on poramboke lands in the town. The evils arose because the authorities worked the Regulation and rules according to the letter. They presented a memorial to the Dewan, while at Kottayam, regarding their hardships but the rigour had not in any way abated. Though the removal of the encroachments was effected ostensibly in the interests of the public under the provisions of the Land Conservancy Regulation, the practice had resulted in individual hardship to almost all the inhabitants of the town and it could not be affirmed that public interests were really served thereby. The benefits accruing were very small when compared to the hardships to the many. The Regulation, as in the case of many other similar Regulations, was a weapon of mischief in the hands of Sirkar officials. In removing an encroachment, the officers should take into consideration whether the encroachment was intentional. The encroachment itself might have resulted from an incorrect previous measurement by the survey authorities for which private persons were not responsible. It should also be considered whether the owner of the adjoining land was in long possession of the encroachment, and if so, whether the same could not be registered in his name, as rightly laid down by Rule 10 of the rules framed under the Regulation. The loss to the owner consequent on the immediate vacation of the encroachment should also be taken into account. A further grievance in the matter was that ample time and opportunity for adducing evidence and defending the case were not given to the parties. The status of the officer deputed for local investigation was also in most cases very low. The Member prayed that the above grievances of the inhabitants of the town might be redressed at an early date.

Dewan's reply.—The Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, will be asked to report on the Member's representations.

15. Removal of impediments in the way of the assignment of Government waste and other lands.

Mr. Abraham Isaac (Member, Nominated) thanked the Dewan for nominating him to the Assembly to represent the Pulaya converts to Christianity. Proceeding to his subject, he said that the people of his community had no sites for habitation purposes and prayed that Government assessed wastes should as far as possible be assigned to them. Though the Government were taking steps to remove some of their disabilities, certain hardships were still experienced by them in North and Central Travancore. He was of opinion that the beneficent results of the actions of the Government did not reach them in time on account of the unsympathetic attitude of some of the subordinate officers. He referred to the delay in the registry of certain puduvals in the Neyyattinkara and Nedumangad taluks, notwithstanding the orders of Government for registering them in their names, and to the delay in